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Operation On Dulles Is 'Success'

Hernia Repaired; Findings Awaited On Malignancy

By Warren Rogers Jr.
Associated Press

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles yesterday underwent a hernia operation his doctors called successful.

They declined to say until today whether they found any signs of cancer.

The doctors said they removed tissue and fluid for microscopic examination. Results of the laboratory tests are to be announced about noon today.

There was no explanation, despite requests from newsmen, of the wait of more than 24 hours. Normally, at least a preliminary pathologist's report is made to the surgeons before an operation is completed.

The Army's Walter Reed Medical Center, where the operation was performed, has an intricate closed-circuit color television system. It permits the operating surgeon to view the microscopic slides of the tissue on TV while he discusses it by telephone with the pathologist.

Dulles, who will be 71 on Feb. 25, was operated on at Walter Reed Nov. 3, 1956, for removal of a cancerous portion of his lower intestine.

It was said that the colon was cancerous was not reported until more than 24 hours afterward, following extensive laboratory tests.

When President Eisenhower was operated on for ileitis June 9, 1956, doctors announced about an hour afterward that there was no malignancy. They said no laboratory tests were needed because "an ordinary inspection of the inflamed areas showed no cancerous condition."

Lincoln White, State Department press chief, said Dulles was on the operating table a little less than a hour. He said the Secretary entered the operating room shortly after 8 a.m.

White issued this bulletin from the three-man operating team headed by Maj. Gen. Leonard D. Heaton, hospital commandant:

"A successful left inguinal (groin) herniorrhaphy was performed on the Secretary of State this morning. During the course of the operative procedure, tissue and fluid were removed for microscopic examination. The Secretary's immediate post-operative condition is quite satisfactory."

The two other surgeons were Brig. Gen. James Forsee, chief of surgery at Walter Reed, and Capt. A. Bolt, resident in surgery.

The anaesthetist was Col. Harvey Slocum.

Witnessing the operation were Maj. Gen. Howard M. Snyder, the President's physician; Brig. Gen. Francis Pruett, chief of medicine at Walter Reed, and Dr. A. D. Daughton, Dulles' personal physician.

At the hospital during and after the operation were Dulles' wife, his sister Eleanor and Mrs. Allen W. Dulles, his brother's wife.